

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 DLOS-09 L-03 EB-08
PA-02 ICA-20 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 COME-00 INT-05
CG-00 DOTE-00 AGRE-00 FSIE-00 FSE-00 ABF-01 EA-12
/106 W

-----091006 231930Z /53

R 231839Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7142
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PANAMA 03598

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS, FAO, PN
SUBJECT: WESTERN CENTRAL ATLANTIC FISHERIES COMMISSION
(WECAFC) AND UNDP/FAO FISH MARKETING INFORMATION SERVICE

1. THE FIRST SESSION OF THE WECAFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
(EXCOM) MEETING ENDED ON MAY 21 AFTER AN EXTENDED SESSION.
THE EXCOM WAS CHAIRED BY E. OLTUSKI, CUBAN VICE FISHERIES
MINISTER AND WAS ATTENDED BY ALL THE MEMBERS OF THE EXCOM
(THE BAHAMAS, BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, CUBA, JAMAICA AND THE US),
EXCEPT GUYANA AND TRINIDAD-TOBAGO.

2. THE MAJOR RESULTS OF THE MEETING WERE AS FOLLOWS:
(A) THE PROGRAM LEADER (W. DOUCET) REPORTED ON THE
PROJECT'S PROGRESS. EVEN THOUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE PROJECT'S SECOND PHASE WAS DELAYED BY SIX MONTHS DUE
TO UNDP FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, THE PROJECT IS NOW IN OPER-
ATION. ALMOST ALL OF THE PROJECT'S MAIN STAFF HAS BEEN
SELECTED AND HAVE ALREADY PARTICIPATED IN A NUMBER OF
MISSIONS, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS, AND OTHER ACTIVITIES. THE
EXCOM EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION TO MR. DOUCET FOR HIS
AND HIS STAFF'S FINE WORK.

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(B) THE EXCOM ACCEPTED THE REPORT OF THE REPORT OF THE
WECAFC WORKING PARTIES ON THE STOCK ASSESSMENT ON SHRIMP/
LOBSTER AND FISH RESOURCES. THE COMMITTEE STRESSED THE
NEED TO GIVE PRIORITY ATTENTION TO ARTISANAL FISHERIES
AND PROGRAMS WHICH WOULD PRODUCE PRACTICAL RESULTS IN A
SHORT TIME FRAME.

(C) THE EXCOM CONCURRED WITH THE PROPOSED COOPERATION WITH IOCARIBE ON TWO RESEARCH PROGRAMS; TRAP FISHERIES IN THE LESSER ANTILLES AND LOBSTER FISHERIES IN CENTRAL AMERICA. MR. DOUCET INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT THE WECAF PROJECT'S PARTICIPATION WOULD HAVE TO BE BASED ON THE PROJECT'S FINANCIAL MEANS AND THE PRIORITIES SET BY THE COMMISSION.

(D) THE EXCOM CONCURRED WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE REPORT ON PELAGIC RESOURCES IN THE WECAFC AREA, NOTING THEIR IMPORTANCE TO ARTISANAL FISHERMEN. MR. COUCET NOTED THAT SOME OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS HAD ALREADY BEEN CARRIED OUT BY THE PROJECT.

(E) THE EXCOM SUPPORTED THE RECOMMENDATIONS SUBMITTED BY THE WECAFC WORKING PARTY ON FISHERY STATISTICS. THE COMMITTEE ALSO CONSIDERED TWO PROPOSALS TO EXTEND THE COMMISSION AREA. THE EXCOM SUPPORTED THE FIRST PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE COMMISSION'S AREA TO 10 DEGREES SOUTH (INSTEAD OF SIX DEGREES SOUTH AS ORIGINALLY PROPOSED). CONSIDERATION OF THE SECOND PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE COMMISSION AREA TO THE PACIFIC COAST OF CUITG L
EMERICAN WAS POSTPONED
UNTIL THE IMMISSION XEETING AS REPZJTED INHEFHHEL.

(F) MR. DOUCET INFORMED THE EXCOM THAT A FINAL DECISION BY
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THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO FUND A DOLS THREE MILLION SUB-PROJECT TO DEVELOP ARTISANAL FISHERMEN SHOULD BE MADE BY JUNE. THE EXCOM INDICATED THAT IT VIEWED THIS SUB-PROJECT AS ONE OF THE WECAF PROJECT'S MOST IMPORTANT ACTIVITIES.

(G) THE EXCOM APPROVED THE PROJECT'S PROGRAM OF WORK, BUT NOTED THAT PERHAPS THE PROJECT WAS ATTEMPTING TO DO TOO MUCH AND THAT IN THE FUTURE IT SHOULD ATTEMPT TO CONCENTRATE ON A SMALL NUMBER OF PRIORITY PROJECTS WHICH COULD SHOW IMMEDIATE RESULTS. THE EXCOM SUGGESTED THAT THE PROJECT SHOULD IN THE FUTURE ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE FOR AT LEAST ANNUAL MEETINGS OF THE WECAFC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

(H) THE EXCOM SUGGESTED THAT FAO SHOULD BE ASKED TO SUBMIT A REQUEST TO UNDP FOR AN EXTENSION OF THE WECAF PROJECT UNTIL 1981 WHICH IS THE END OF THE PRESENT UNDP FIVE-YEAR PROGRAMMING CYCLE. THE EXCOM ALSO RECOMMENDED THAT FAO REQUEST UNDP MAKE PROVISION FOR THE FUTURE FUNDING OF WECAF DURING THE FOLLOWING FIVE-YEAR CYCLE.

(I) THE EXCOM EXPRESSED ITS APPRECIATION TO THE GOVERNMENT

OF PANAMA FOR THE VERY SUBSTANTIAL SUPPORT WHICH IT IS PROVIDING TO THE WECAF PROJECT. THE UNDP OBSERVER (W. RIPLEY) ECHOED THESE SENTIMENTS AND POINTED OUT THAT PANAMA WAS ALSO PROVIDING SIMILAR ASSISTANCE TO THE UNDP/FAO FISH MARKETING INFORMATION SERVICE FOR LATIN AMERICA, WHICH IS ALSO HEADQUARTERED IN PANAMA.

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3. U.S. DELEGATION MEMBER D. WEIDNER VISITED THE FISH MARKETING INFORMATION SERVICE HEADED BY M. MAGNUSON. THE SERVICE IS NOW OPERATIONAL, EVEN THOUGH SOME IMPORTANT STAFF MEMBERS HAVE NOT BEEN SELECTED. THE SERVICE HAS DETAILED INFORMATION ON ALMOST 800 FISHERY IMPORTING COMPANIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, INCLUDING MANY IN THE U.S. EACH COMPANY IS CODED BY THE COMMODITIES THAT IT IMPORTS AND/OR EXPORTS. EXPORTING COMPANIES FROM COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE PROJNSCT CAN OBTAIN INSTANTANEOUS TELEGRAPHIC RESPONSES TO REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON POTENTIAL BUYERS FREE OF CHARGE. THE SERVICE HAS LISTINGS ON OVER 200 COMMODITIES AND MR. MAGNUSON CLAIMS THAT THERE IS NO FISHERY COMMODITY FOR WHICH HE CANNOT FIND A BUYER, ALTHOUGH PRICES AFFECT WHETHER A SALE IS ACTUALLY MADE. AS THE U.S. DOES NOT PARTICIPATE IN THIS PROJECT, THE SERVICE IS NOT AVAILABLE TO U.S. EXPORTERS. THIS SERVICE IS A TRIAL PROGRAM TO DETERMINE IF ADDITIONAL MARKETING PROGRAMS SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED FOR OTHER GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS. UNDP OFFICIAL, W. RIPLEY, INDICATED THAT THE JAPANESE HAVE WORKED VERY CLOSELY WITH THE SERVICE AND HAD OFFERED DOLS THREE MILLION TO FUND IT. THIS OFFER MAY BE USED TO FUND AN ASIAN FISH MARKETING SERVICE IF UNDP DETERMINES THAT

THE PROJECT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL.

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4. PLEASE PASS TO OES/OFA - STORER; AND COMMERCE, NOAA,
NMFS, F42 (RYAN), FSI (WISE/THOMPSON), AND F2 (SLAVIN-
PARA 3), FSE (STEVENSON). JORDEN

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Draft Date: 23 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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